nations, but are much rather the product of a long cultural development, attainable in time by every civilized people. The Christian nations of Europe, which, till the time of the Crusades, could not compete in commerce with the Jews, gradually developed their own merchant classes; and now in certain countries the Jews even find it difficult to hold their own against the non-Jewish business men, *e.g.* in Great Britain, Holland, and the United States.

Commercial abilities are not of a specific kind, but are only one aspect of the capacity for quick thinking and the gift of combination, which is important in commerce, but is equally valuable in scientific work, discoveries, and even in politics. In the intellectual life of the Jews, this capacity has led to the overtowering importance of the Talmud, the study of which requires quick and sharp dialectic thinking; in turn, the fact that Talmudic scholars were sought for as sons-in-law by rich families and had therefore a better chance of bringing up their children, tended to improve these abilities in the Jews. The development of quick and sharp thinking is part of the general tendency of civilization to rationalize human action, while repressing the instincts which govern the life of primitive races. On the other hand, the Jews are inferior in certain other abilities, such as power of observation, the art of commanding men,

skill in ad-
nunistration, etc.

Such superiority, or inferiority, is not, however, inherent or permanent, but can be emphasized or reduced by a change in social circumstances. The fact that in every sphere of culture the Jews are* now represented by men in the first rank, seems to indicate that they are not devoid of any capacity possessed by other nations of the white race, while these, in turn, possess potentially all the mental capacities of the Jews. How could the Jewish cultural inheritance have become the corner-stone for the culture of most white races, were there a deep, fundamental difference in mentality between them and the Jews? This does not,

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